

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 06695 120707Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8155

UNCLAS KINGSTON 6695

ATTN: H. LUSK, LA/DR/EST

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: AID/W MEETING WITH EDUCATION MINISTER ERIC
BELL OCTOBER 11, 1977.

REF: STATE 255584

1. MISSION APPRECIATES REFTEL SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS
WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING MINISTER OF EDUCATION OCTOBER
11 VISIT TO AID/W.

2. UPON MINISTER'S RETURN HE INFORMED THE PRESS OF HIS
SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO THE U.S. AND THAT HE HAD RECEIVED
ASSURANCE FROM THE QUOTE WASHINGTON AGENCIES UNQUOTE
OF FUNDING FOR HIS \$165 MILLION 3 YEAR SCHOOL CONSTRUC-
TION PROGRAM. WE SAW THIS AS A WELL PHRASED HOPEFUL/
WISHFUL GENERAL STATEMENT ON HIS VISIT AS MIGHT HAVE
BEEN EXPECTED.

3. HOWEVER, THE FEEDBACK WE HAVE BEEN GETTING FROM
VERY RELIABLE SOURCES WITHIN THE MINISTRY IS THAT THE
MINISTER HAS INFORMED HIS SENIOR STAFF THAT HE HAS
FIRM, REPEAT FIRM, ASSURANCES FROM AID/W THAT THE
AGENCY WILL FUND AT LEAST 20 NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO
BE CONSTRUCTED IN RURAL AREAS OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS,
AS PART OF HIS OVERALL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PACKAGE.
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4. CONSEQUENTLY, THE WORD HAS GOTTEN AROUND EDUCATIONAL
CIRCLES HERE TO THE EXTENT THAT WE RECENTLY HAVE HAD
SEVERAL INFORMAL INQUIRIES ASKING FOR CONFIRMATION.

5. THE ABOVE REPORTED MINED SITUATION APPEARS TO BE
QUITE AT VARIANCE WITH THAT REPORTED IN REFTEL PARA 4.

WE THEREFORE REQUEST AID/W'S RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE REPORTED INFORMATION WHICH, AS STATED, COMES FROM SEVERAL HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCES. IN THIS CONTEXT WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING A MORE DETAILED CLARIFICATION/REPORT ON THE MINISTER'S MEETING IN AID/W AND ANY ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION THAT AID/W MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE MISSION.

6. PLEASE ADVISE.
IRVING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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